

Docket # SC.2002.11

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claim 1 and added new claims 2 through 31. These new claims are directed to subscriber communications applications, which were disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/309,373, now U.S. Patent No. 6,353,870 ('870), to which this application claims priority.

It was established by the Examiner in the '870 case that "the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest ... transferring information between a first-level module and a second-level module, where the first-level module is coupled to a portable host via a first-level slot and the second-level module is coupled to the first-level module via a second-level slot." The one pending independent claim (Claims 2) in the instant application has language that echoes the foregoing.

Applicant has provided a replacement Abstract, submitted on a separate sheet, and otherwise believed to be in compliance with MPEP § 608.01(b).

In order to facilitate the examination process the case was filed with formal drawings and Applicant has filed a Terminal Disclaimer simultaneously with this preliminary amendment.

It is believed that no new matter has been introduced via any of the amendments. Claims 2 through 31 are now pending in the application.

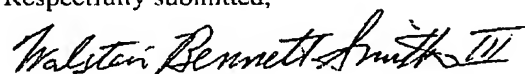
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CLOSING

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed by Applicant to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowability at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, please telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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